(a) whether the judgement of the Supreme Court of India in the case of Vinod Kumar Vs. Union of India striking down some concessions extended to employees belonging to SC/ST communities, is under examination by Government; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to protect the existing benefits to those categories of employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) The Supreme Court in its judgement in the case of S. Vinod Kumar has held that the provision of lower qualifying marks/lesser standards of evaluation in the matter reservation in promotion is not permissible under Article 16 (4) in view of the command contained in Article 335 of the Constitution. This judgement was itself based on the 9 Judges Constitutional Bench Judgement of the Supreme Court delivered on 16.11.1992 in the case of Indira Sawhney Vs. Union of India. The decision of the Supreme Court becomes the law of the land in terms of Article 141 of the Constitution. Accordingly, orders were issued by this Department on 22.7.97, withdrawing only those relaxed standards for SCs/STs in promotion as were held to be not permissible. Other relaxations in promotion and all the existing relaxations in direct recruitment still continue.

Recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission

2138. SHRI E. BALANANDAN:
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRI C.O. POULOSE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fifth Central Pay Commission had recommended for career progression of the Central Government employees outlining certain criteria for timely upgradation of posts/status;

(b) If so, the reasons for Government not taking any decision on this recommendation which is widely affecting the lower grade Central Government employees;

(c) whether Government are aware that a large number of lower grade employees are experiencing stagnation in their career and thereby deprived of promotional avenues;

(d) if so, whether Government will favourably consider the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission on career progression; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Fifth Central Pay Commission has recommended Assured Career Progression Scheme for Central Government employees.

(b) to (e) The recommendations are under consideration of the Govt. However, Government has already decided in principle to allow atleast two financial upgradations to Group-C and Group-D Central Government employees in a career. The Modalities in this regard are being worked out.

केन्द्रीय भण्डार की शाखा खोला जाना

2139. **श्री राजनाथ सिंह:**
श्रीमती मालती शर्मा:

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकारी कालोनी लक्ष्मीबाई नगर में केन्द्रीय भण्डार की कोई शाखा नहीं है जिसके परिणामस्वरूप इन कालोनी के निवासियों को बहुत-सी समस्याओं का सामना करना पड़ता है;

(ख) क्या सरकार इन कालोनी के निवासियों को पेश आ रही गंभीर समस्या को देखते हुए वहां नवयुग स्कूल के सामने एक उचित मूल्य दुकान (एफ॰पी॰एस॰) के साथ-साथ केन्द्रीय भण्डार की एक शाखा खोलने का विचार रखती है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो कब तक और यदि नहीं तो उसके क्या कारण हैं?